

Urban Design Features 3 ^[1]

Urban Design Features 3 (November 9, 2009):

Another area that can provide both significant utility and visual appeal are some of the modern stormwater treatment options. Engineers and landscape architects have collaborated in recent years to design functional features that create a more desirable street view.

Stormwater Treatments

Flow-through Planting Area in Sidewalk



Stormwater
Treatment Area
in Action



Stormwater Planting Area
in Curb Extension



Stormwater Rain Garden



Stormwater Rain Garden



[2]



KELSO WEST MAIN STREET REALIGNMENT

October 20, 2009

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As you can see, there are a wide variety of urban design options that can make an area much more attractive so that people find it desirable to spend some time there.



Urban Design Program

Streetscape Opportunities

- Streetscape and urban design treatments define a street's character and identity.
- A cohesive streetscape palette of furnishings, special paving, street trees, and landscaping provides visual continuity, enhances aesthetics and encourages pedestrian activity.
- Landscaped and/or handicapped medians should be provided to reduce the perceived width of the street (traffic calming) and provide pedestrian refuge space.
- Design driveways for good pedestrian accessibility and with standard widths and configurations.
- Provide street trees with columnar or upright branching form.
- Landscaping should be attractive, easy to maintain and resistant to urban traffic.
- Provide places for people to rest and socialize along the street.
- On-street parking buffers pedestrians from traffic and enhances business.

Public Space Opportunities

- The realignment of the street will create opportunities for small pocket parks and mini plazas along the corridor, as well as urban renewal of reconfigured parcels.
- Remnant triangles can also become focal points along the street, and places for gateway treatments, wayfinding signs, and public art installations.
- The new public spaces will provide pedestrian refuge and crossing opportunities, strengthening neighborhood connectivity.

Pedestrian Opportunities

- Provide a continuous, "through" designated walking area, clearly defined and separated from traffic. The pedestrian travel way should never be less than 6 feet wide, not including street trees, plantings, or furnishings (see Streetside pedestrian zones illustrations).
- Enhance pedestrian lighting, particularly at crossings.
- Provide curb extensions/corner bulbs at intersections and mid-block crossings to shorten the crossing distance and increase visibility of pedestrians.
- Provide frequent pedestrian crossing facilities (striped or distinctively paved crosswalks, pedestrian actuated signals, etc.).
- Strengthen connection along and across the street to neighborhood destinations.

Bicycle Opportunities

- Provide minimum 5-foot-wide bicycle lanes, marked within the right-of-way, or route bicycle access down an adjacent alternative street.

Gateways and Wayfinding Opportunities

- Enhance the sense of arrival into Kelso with gateway design treatments.
- Provide vehicle-oriented directional signs to aid motorist wayfinding.
- Provide pedestrian-oriented signing and kiosks at key locations.
- Enliven public spaces with public art and other design features.



Option with Bike Lanes

[3]

KELSO WEST MAIN STREET
REALIGNMENT

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The caveat is that these features all come with a price tag. However, many people feel strongly that the price is more than worth the enhancement of their environment, and the attraction of shoppers to an area is always welcomed by the local business people trying to make their living there.

Source URL: <http://www.kelso.gov/urbandesignfeatures3>

Links

[1] <http://www.kelso.gov/urbandesignfeatures3>

[2] <http://www.kelso.gov/sites/default/files/images/west-main/Stormwater%20Treatments.pdf>

[3] <http://www.kelso.gov/sites/default/files/images/west-main/Urban%20Design%20Opportunities.pdf>